

In the Claims

Without prejudice, please amend claims 1, 5, 6, 9 through 12 and 18; and withdraw claims 19 and 20, as follows:

1. (Withdrawn; currently amended) A plasticized polyvinyl butyral resin composition comprising (a) a polyvinyl butyral resin composition having a hydroxyl number of from about 15 to about 34 and comprising a mixture of meso and racemic stereoisomers wherein the ratio of meso to racemic stereoisomers (M/R) is in the range of from about 2.5 to about 5.0; (b) a surfactant selected from the group consisting of sodium methyl cocoyl taurate and mixtures of sodium methyl cocoyl taurate with sodium dioctylsulfosuccinate or sodium lauryl sulfate; and (c) a plasticizer in an amount of from about 30 to about 50 parts per hundred (pph) based on the total weight of the polyvinyl butyral resin composition, said plasticizer selected from the group consisting of triethyleneglycol di-(2-ethyl hexanoate), dibutyl sebacate and tetraethylene glycol di(2-heptanoate); and wherein the tensile creep of the plasticized polyvinyl butyral resin composition is less than or equal to 2.5 % .
2. (Withdrawn) The plasticized polyvinylbutyral resin composition of Claim 1 wherein the surfactant consists essentially of sodium methyl cocoyl taurate.
3. (Withdrawn) The plasticized polyvinylbutyral resin composition of Claim 2 wherein the PVB resin composition has a hydroxyl number of from about 17 to about 19 and wherein the ratio of meso to racemic stereoisomers (M/R) is in the range of from about 3.1 to about 3.5.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Withdrawn; currently amended) The plasticized polyvinylbutyral resin composition of Claim [[4]] 3 wherein the tensile creep of the plasticized polyvinylbutyral composition is less than or equal to 1.5 % .

6. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a plasticized polyvinyl butyral resin composition having a mixture of meso and racemic stereoisomers, the process comprising the steps of:

- (a) mixing components (i) through (v) to obtain an aqueous reaction mixture;
- (b) stirring the aqueous reaction mixture for a period of from about 15 minutes to about 180 minutes at a temperature in the range of from 80°C to about 100°C, wherein the components of the aqueous reaction mixture are (i) water, (ii) an acidic aqueous polyvinyl alcohol solution having a dry weight polyvinyl alcohol concentration of from about 8 wt% to about 20 wt%, based on the total weight of the solution, that is maintained at a temperature of at least about 80 °C, (iii) an acid compound or mixture of acid compounds present in an amount sufficient to give the aqueous reaction mixture a pH of from about 1.3 to about 2.5; (iv) a surfactant selected from the group consisting of sodium methyl cocoyl taurate and mixtures of sodium methyl cocoyl taurate with sodium dioctylsulfosuccinate or sodium lauryl sulfate; said surfactant present in an amount of from about 0.1 wt % to about 0.70 wt % based on the dry weight of the polyvinyl alcohol, and (v) butyraldehyde, wherein the ratio of (ii) to (v) is sufficient such that there is unreacted hydroxyl functionality in the polyvinyl butyral resin composition;
- (c) stabilizing the aqueous reaction mixture by (i) raising the pH of the aqueous reaction mixture to a pH of at least 7 and (ii) draining the liquid from the aqueous reaction mixture to obtain the polyvinyl butyral resin composition, wherein the polyvinyl butyral resin composition has a hydroxyl number of from about 15 to about 34 and further wherein the meso to racemic ratio of the polyvinyl butyral resin composition is in the range of from about 2.5 to about 5.0;
- (d) mixing the polyvinyl butyral resin composition with a plasticizer in an amount of from about 30 to about 50 pph, based on the weight of the dry polyvinyl butyral resin composition, said plasticizer selected from the group

consisting of triethyleneglycol di-(2-ethyl hexanoate), dibutyl sebacate and tetraethylene glycol di(2-heptanoate); and

(e) extruding the plasticized polyvinyl butyral resin composition to form a sheet having a tensile creep of less than 2.5 % .

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) The process of Claim [[8]] 6 wherein the surfactant consists essentially of sodium methyl cocoyl taurate.

10. (Currently amended) The process of Claim [[8]] 6 wherein the surfactant mixture comprises sodium lauryl sulfate.

11. (Currently amended) The process of Claim [[8]] 6 wherein the surfactant mixture comprises sodium dioctylsulfosuccinate.

12. (Currently amended) The process of Claim [[8]] 6 wherein the acid compound or mixture of acid compounds comprises phosphoric acid.

13. (Withdrawn) A plasticized polyvinyl butyral resin composition made by the process of claim 6.

14. (Withdrawn) The plasticized polyvinyl butyral resin composition of Claim 13 wherein the surfactant consists essentially of sodium methyl cocoyl taurate.

15. (Withdrawn) The plasticized polyvinyl butyral resin composition of Claim 13 wherein the surfactant mixture comprises sodium laurel sulfate.

16. (Withdrawn) The plasticized polyvinyl butyral resin composition of Claim 13 wherein the surfactant mixture comprises sodium dioctylsulfosuccinate.

17. (Cancelled).

18. (Withdrawn; currently amended) The plasticized polyvinyl butyral resin composition of Claim 13 wherein the tensile creep is less than or equal to 1.5 %.

19. (Withdrawn) The plasticized polyvinylbutyral resin composition of Claim 1 wherein the surfactant mixture comprises sodium lauryl sulfate.

20. (Withdrawn) The plasticized polyvinylbutyral resin composition of Claim 1 wherein the surfactant mixture comprises sodium dioctylsulfosuccinate.